

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: Manston DCO - Air Quality
Date: 09 March 2019 18:03:50
Attachments: [Jan Driver"s Thanet_Ramsgate Air Quality Monitoring Failure 1000s At Risk.pdf](#)

I have written before concerning the issue of air quality in Thanet. I've seen concerns raised by others about pollution where Pm10 particles are being taken into account by RSP but not Pm2.5 which are more serious as they spread over a much larger area, the entirety of Ramsgate it would seem. Please find attached below commentary from a respected local authority on this issue which I would like the examiners to consider. In particular I draw your attention to the following point made;

Statistics published in 2018 by the Kent Public Health Observatory identify Thanet has having the highest rate of death due to air pollution in the whole of Kent with 20 in every 1000 deaths being caused, or contributed to, by airborne pollution."

The presence of a large commercial freight hub is likely to make the situation much much worse and I see little the applicant has proposed or is capable of proposing to mitigate this most serious issue.

Adem Mehmet

Friday, 8 March 2019

Ramsgate Air Quality Monitoring Failure 1000s At Risk



The health and well-being of thousands of people living in Ramsgate is being put at risk. Why? Because for almost 5 months Thanet Council (TDC) has failed to regularly and comprehensively monitor air quality in the town.

Ramsgate's air quality is measured by a remote monitoring station, located at Boundary Road. The station is designed to take hourly measurements, 365 days a year, of the level of dangerous airborne pollutants including Nitrous Oxide, Nitrogen Dioxide and particulate matter. A second remote monitoring station is located in Birchington.

Along with 15 other remote air quality monitoring stations, Thanet's 2 stations are connected to the Kent and Medway Air Quality Monitoring Network (KMAQMN). Via its website KMAQMN uses the data produced by the 17 monitoring stations to provide "real-time", hourly air quality measurements for the whole of Kent. Here is the link

<http://www.kentair.org.uk/home/googleMapWithForecast>

According to information I have obtained, whilst the Birchington station appears to be operating normally and producing regular hourly readings every day, the Ramsgate station ceased to operate at 6am on 30 October 2018.

Since then no air pollution readings have been recorded by the station. No other station in the KMAQMN has been out of action for as long as the Ramsgate station.

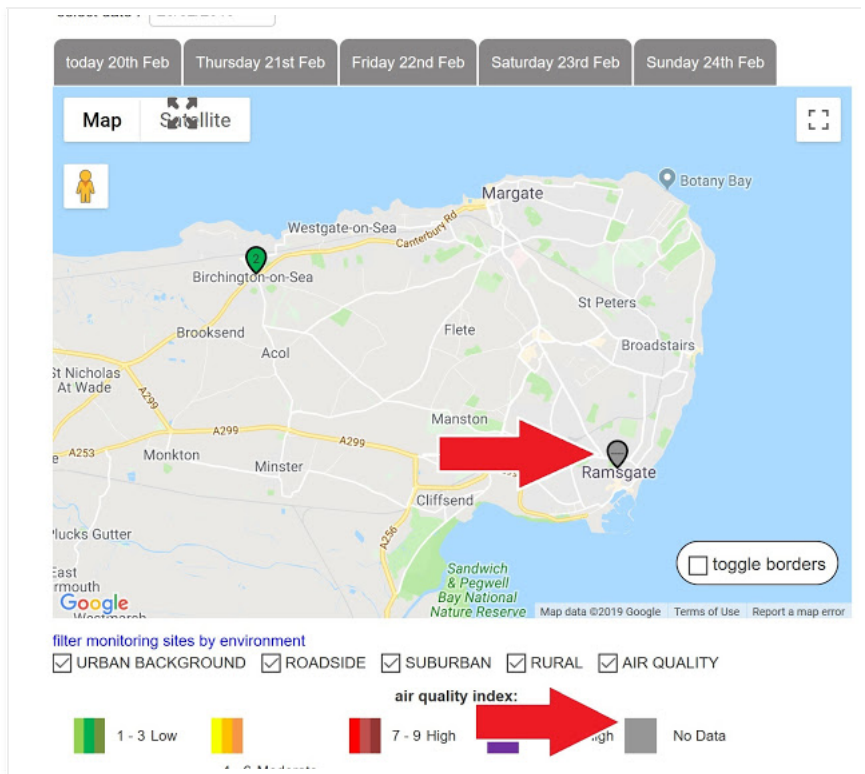
TDC operates a number of smaller air quality monitoring facilities across the district but these stations do not provide hourly, or daily air pollution measurements, nor do they measure the full range of airborne pollutants and none of these stations are connected to the KMAQMN real-time air quality monitoring service.

The lack of comprehensive regular air quality monitoring in Ramsgate is a very serious matter. It prevents anyone from knowing when airborne pollution in the town exceeds safe levels, making it impossible to issue health warnings if pollution becomes high. This means that the lives of thousands of people living in the Ramsgate area, who have asthma or cardio-vascular disease, are being put at serious risk by the Council because of its 5 month failure to get the town's monitoring station working.

It's impossible to overstate the threat to health posed by of air pollution. Public health experts from across the world, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) have, for many years, been warning of the dangers of airborne pollution which can cause, and make much worse, heart and lung disease. Recent reports have also linked air pollution with Alzheimer's disease.

The WHO estimates that 8 million people worldwide, die prematurely each year as a result of breathing polluted air. According to a 2018 report produced by the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants, approximately 36,000 premature deaths each year are caused by air pollution in the UK.

Statistics published in 2018 by the Kent Public Health Observatory identify Thanet has having the highest rate of death due to air pollution in the whole of Kent with 20 in every 1000 deaths being caused, or contributed to, by airborne pollution.



It's hard to believe that the Council with the highest air pollution death rates in Kent has allowed one of its remote air quality monitoring stations to remain out of action for almost 5 months. Those responsible for this situation are putting the health, well-being and ultimately the lives of thousands of vulnerable people at risk!

So serious is the health threat of air pollution that laws and regulations have been introduced by successive UK and EU Governments to monitor and control this danger. EU Directive 2008/50/, Part 4 of the Environment Act 1995 and the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 all place legal responsibilities upon national, regional and local government, including TDC, to regularly, monitor, assess and report on the levels of air pollution in the area which they are responsible for, and to produce action plans to tackle this problem.

TDCs failure to regularly and comprehensively measure air quality in Ramsgate means that its pollution reports and action plans will, without the monitoring station data, be hopelessly inaccurate.

It is also very likely that a lack of regular air monitoring in Ramsgate will place TDC in breach of the UK and EU and regulations mentioned above, and could lead to heavy fines being imposed on the Council for acting unlawfully. Indeed paragraph 30 of EU Directive 2008/50 says that

Member States shall lay down the rules on penalties applicable to infringements of the national provisions adopted pursuant to this Directive and shall take all measures necessary to ensure that they are implemented. The penalties provided for must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive

I have said it before and I will say it again - I believe Thanet Council to be one of the most dangerous local authorities in the country, with a reckless and criminal disregard for the health, safety and well-being of its citizens and staff. The failure to measure and monitor air pollution in Ramsgate is yet further evidence of TDCs irresponsible and negligent attitude towards the health and well-being of thousands of its citizens.

Questions must be asked about why an air quality monitoring station covering a large Thanet town was allowed to be inactive for almost 5 months? If the station had malfunctioned, which appears to be likely, why wasn't it repaired? Why did the Council fail to publicly report the fact that the station was not operational? Why was alternative monitoring equipment not deployed to replace the malfunctioning station? I have asked these questions, and many more, via a Freedom of Information Request (FOIR) which I have submitted to TDC today. I will be interested to hear TDCs explanation, unless of course they use every trick in the FOI book to resist my request.



With regards to the Council's law breaking it would appear that the Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Affairs, Michael Gove, is responsible for overseeing the implementation of EU Directive 2008/50, Part 4 of the Environment Act 1995 and the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. I have written to Mr Gove today setting out my concerns about TDCs failings and hope that he will launch an urgent investigation and levy the appropriate penalty upon our dangerously incompetent council.

One of the most important duties of a local authority is to promote the health and well-being of the people it serves and the staff it employs. To neglect, and put in danger the health and welfare of thousands of Ramsgate residents by failing to monitor and assess air quality in the town is reckless in the extreme. Any investigation must name those responsible for this failure and the appropriate action must be taken.

I only hope that the shut down of the Ramsgate air monitoring Station was

not a cynical exercise in cost cutting at the expense of the health and well-being of the people of Ramsgate.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2010 No. 1001

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010

<i>Made</i>	- - - -	<i>25th March 2010</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		<i>30th March 2010</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>	- -	<i>11th June 2010</i>

Posted by [Ian Driver](#) at 07:46



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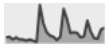
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